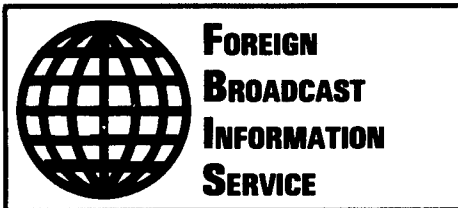


JPRS-NEA-92-066
22 MAY 1992



JPRS Report

Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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Near East & South Asia

IRAN

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Still Places Iran on Terrorism List

*LD0105220292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
1 May 92*

[Text] One again the U.S. State Department alleges that Iran supports international terrorism. In its annual report, the U.S. State Department does not mention the crimes and terrorist acts committed by the Quds occupying regime [Israel], particularly those in occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon, but terms the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the struggles of the oppressed nations of Palestine and Lebanon as support for terrorism.

In that report the countries of Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Iraq, and Syria have also been named as supporters of terrorism.

West Accused of Condoning Iraqi Attacks on Shi'ites

*NC1105095892 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 22 Apr 92 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "The Forgotten People of Southern Iraq"]

[Text] The Baghdad regime's ground and air attacks on the Shi'ites in southern Iraq continue. The sounds of explosions and of surface-to-air missiles being fired can be heard in various parts of that area. This is evidence of the continuing crimes the bloodthirsty Ba'thist regime is committing against the Shi'ites in southern Iraq.

These crimes, which are being perpetrated under a news blackout in the West, have caused much death and destruction. These crimes are being committed despite the threats and political sanctions imposed by international forums against the Baghdad regime. The Ba'thists spare no cruelty against the forgotten Muslims of southern Iraq. They are acting freely, and possibly with the support of Western political circles.

Until approximately a year ago, these circles did not allow Iraqi helicopters or aircraft to take off from their airfields and did not allow the Ba'thist regime to interfere in a large part of southern Iraq. Their television cameras and news agencies watched the slightest Iraqi movement in southern Iraq and rapidly disseminated reports on Western allied operations to the entire world. Today, they are silent on the movement of Iraqi armored units and the continuous attacks by Iraqi fighters against people in the same area, as though nothing were happening.

Even if it is an exaggeration to say that the Iraqis are receiving military support from their sworn enemies to crush the Muslims in southern Iraq, we can at least say that the Ba'thists' savage crimes—against both the oppressed Kurds in northern Iraq and the defenseless Muslims in southern Iraq—are being carried out with

the full knowledge and consent of the Westerners and their forces in the area. These crimes and the silence surrounding them have paved the way for genocide in Iraq. Unfortunately, those who advocate human rights have closed their eyes to these crimes.

The United Nations is responsible for the savage massacre of Muslims in Iraq. The Red Cross is responsible for the systematic and horrific massacre of Shiites in southern Iraq. Every international organization and forum and every regime that armed the oppressive and bloodthirsty Ba'thist regime in Baghdad for a decade are accomplices to the crimes being perpetrated by this regime and should answer to the world.

The United Nations and other world forums demand that governments and nations respect international laws, commitments, and decisions. If so, they should react to the horrific crimes being perpetrated by a regime that does not respect law, public opinion, civilization, or democracy. Then the world will be a more healthy place, where people can lead a respectable life and not think they are living in an age of medieval horror and barbarism.

Daily on U.S. Interests in Afghanistan

*NC1105125592 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Apr 92
p 20*

[Hoseyn Zia'i commentary: "A Glance at the Future"]

[Text] Current developments in Afghanistan reflect a multifaceted strategic upheaval in one of the most important and oldest remaining conflicts of the cold war era.

Because of the importance of the situation in Afghanistan—which will play a significant role in the future structure of the region and the Islamic world (in Central Asia)—it has become the center of international attention, especially in the United States. The future position of Afghanistan in the new world order is a sensitive subject which has captured Washington's imagination. The nation will have to conform with U.S. policy in Central Asia, which is one of the world's more important regions to Iran. The region is also among the top priorities in U.S. foreign policy.

The United States does not wish to see a new Islamic power in Central Asia. As the main entrance to the region, Afghanistan's future government has aroused great interest.

Afghanistan's departure from the Washington-backed UN-sponsored peace process and the possibility of its joining the Islamic revolution are the main reasons for U.S. apprehension. By mobilizing its political resources, the United States is trying to play the "main role" in Afghanistan's future and to transform it into an area of influence that conforms to the objectives of its new world order in Central Asia.

If the mojahedin succeeds in taking power in Afghanistan, Islam will return to one of its greatest areas of influence. There are many potential problems with this, however.

The fact is that "sectarianism" has become a "political scourge," which endangers the future of the country. Washington's attempt to expand its political influence in Kabul poses two lethal dangers which raise concern for the future of Afghanistan.

If the mojahedin wish to establish themselves in Afghanistan, they need a general, durable, and fundamental understanding of the political scene in the country. The Western political axis—Washington, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey—is seeking to project its own version of events in Afghanistan.

The United States sees Afghanistan as the key to the domination of Central Asia. In order to prevent a political form of Islam from taking shape in this area, the United States believes it is necessary to join forces with the powerful opponents of Islam's political strength in the region. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India, and Turkey are among the main opponents of Afghanistan returning to the Islamic fold. The "final absorption" of Afghanistan into Islam's political axis—now, more than ever—requires courage, boldness, and swift action.

Delegation in Washington for IMF Meeting

LD2904230692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A high level Iranian economic delegation led by the finance and economy minister [Mohsen Nurbaksh] and the Iranian State Bank governor [Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli] has arrived in Washington to attend the joint session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Besides holding discussions with the group of 24 delegations from 24 developing countries, the Iranian delegation is also expected to meet the delegates from the 10 industrialized countries of the world, known as the Group of 10.

OIC Praises Efforts To Solve Nagorno-Karabak Crisis

LD1005201992 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid al-Gabid today expressed support for the Iranian president's peace efforts concerning the Karabakh issue.

Al-Gabid in a message to Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani also hailed his efforts for further consolidation of Islamic solidarity among Muslim countries.

Commentary on Need To Safeguard OPEC Interests

NC1704154492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 14 Apr 92

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. While the petroleum ministers of the OPEC member nations are preparing for the OPEC supervisory session on 4 Ordibehesht [24 April] to discuss the oil market, the increase in oil tankers rented by Persian Gulf countries during this month may mean an increase in OPEC members' oil exports.

Based on reports by oil statisticians, Kuwaiti oil production has reached the 800,000-barrel mark following a gradual increase in production this month. Last month, Saudi Arabian production dropped by 450,000 barrels and Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, Nigeria, and Libya each dropped their production by 100,000 barrels.

In late Bahman last year [month ending 19 February 1992], the OPEC petroleum ministers agreed to reduce OPEC oil production by 1.2 million barrels daily because of the drop in oil prices and market instability. Some OPEC members wanted a sharper drop. Based on this agreement, beginning 11 Esfand 1370 [2 March 1992] for a period of four months, the OPEC production ceiling was set at about 23 million barrels per day at a basic price of \$21 per barrel.

Oil experts believe that during the coming OPEC supervisory conference on 4 Ordibehesht, despite market requirements and the hot season, the same reduction that applied in the past will continue because, during the past couple of weeks, border tensions in the Middle East and the crisis in North Africa have strengthened oil prices somewhat. Some OPEC members, such as Saudi Arabia which is not very keen on dropping its oil production, will oppose reduced OPEC production on this pretext.

The supply of Iraqi oil to the international market is another problem as far as stabilizing OPEC oil prices is concerned. UN-Iraqi talks on resuming oil sales to world markets are continuing. The United Nations has agreed to the export of Iraqi oil from the southeast Iraqi port of al-Bakr. These exports, which Iraq wants, will help the Baghdad regime offer its oil to more customers instead of striving to transport its oil via Turkey and Syria which pose it some difficulties. Currently, 500,000 barrels of oil can be exported from al-Bakr and this quantity can be raised to 1 million barrels.

Political observers believe that the recent Persian Gulf war or the oil war continued U.S. policy on dominating Persian Gulf oil resources and on weakening OPEC. According to documents drawn up during the Gerald Ford administration and which were recently published in Washington, U.S. administrations have for 15 years

sought to control Persian Gulf oil resources on the pretext of safeguarding the area from Iraqi aggression. This plan was finally implemented during the Bush administration.

According to the Washington-based (REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE INFORMATION), the same people who were involved in the Ford administration's coordination committee of 15 years ago undertook the major role in the "Desert Storm" operation. Among these people, one can list James Baker, assistant national defense secretary in the Ford administration and the current secretary of state; Scroft, national security adviser in the Ford and Bush administrations; Dick Cheney, chief of the White House staff and the current defense secretary; and George Bush, CIA director then and now president.

In view of the world political situation and the strengthening of oil's role in the rivalry among the United States, Europe, and Japan, it seems that oil exporters and OPEC members who are steadfast and alert to the organization's undertakings and members' efforts to safeguard the interests of OPEC members can ensure their national interests.

Paper Questions Neutrality of ICRC

NC0305114492 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 25 Apr 92 p 2

[Editorial: "ICRC's (International Committee of the Red Cross) Good Image"]

[Text] For many Iranians the 8-year-old Iraqi-imposed war is a thing of the past that must be forgotten because of its bitterness and the massive human and material destructions it produced.

But that is not the case with the Iranian prisoners of war in the Iraqi internment camps or their families here in Iran, who count the passing time by the hour and the day until their loved ones are released. For the families of those classified as MIAs (or missing in action) the ordeal is no less severe.

Much of the same thing can be said about the Iraqi POWs here in Iran, and their families back home. The prisoners in both countries can be regarded as the most unfortunate products of the Iraqi-imposed war. And although Iran has done its best to bring this sad saga to an end, the circumstances surrounding the efforts have not been conducive to results.

The number of Iranian POWs in Iraq compiled from their voices which used to be aired from a wartime Iraqi Persian language radio program, pictures released by the Iraqi organizations in charge of the POWs affairs, briefing of those released as a result of various exchanges...have been estimated at 7,876. [sentence as published] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has been told about the number and the process in which it was obtained.

The two countries have to date exchanged an estimated 78,000 prisoners from the conflict, although they have been unable to reach a formal accord settling their long-standing border dispute. In March the two sides blamed one another for a holdup in another round of prisoners' exchange under the auspices of the ICRC.

The question of POW negotiation between the two sides have been controversial. Instead of leading to progress they have led to accusations and counteraccusations. Iran says according to an agreement reached between the two countries and the ICRC in Geneva in April, they were to resume swapping POWs as of March 14 at Iran's Khosrovi border points but that obstructions created by Baghdad blocked the process. Similar accusations have been made by Iraq.

Therefore, just when the negotiations are about to lead to concrete results, they hit snags, and go back to square one. What is needed is a neutral body—somebody or some body—trusted by both sides to mediate. One cannot think of a more qualified body than the ICRC. It has what it takes to succeed: long experience with POW affairs, negotiating-mediating skills, familiarity with the parties involved,...

But because of facts (or fictions), the neutrality of this body is coming under questions not only in Iran but in other countries as well, the most recent of which was in Sudan. Sudan warned the committee in late March of risking expulsion because of links with or support for SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels. Khartoum asked the committee to abide by mutual accords and respect the sovereignty of Sudan in order to continue its presence in that country.

A few days before what happened in Sudan, the ICRC got involved in a difficulty with Iran and had its offices closed for 'violations of its limits' and those of its principles.

In a complete disregard for the evidence provided by Iran on the number of Iranian POWs in Iraq, at a recent tripartite session, the ICRC announced that there were no more Iranian prisoners in Iraq and whatever facts were produced by Iran amounted to only a "claim." The incident has served to weaken the committee's neutral image in Iran. Head of the Iranian Commission for Iraqi Prisoners of War, 'Ali Nazaran, said this week that following the suspension of its activities in Iran the ICRC launched propaganda against Iran.

The Iranian POW official argued that the committee is either gullible—to believe outright what Iraq says—or biased against Iran, in the face of the evidence produced. Either one can act against the body's neutral and good image. Release of the bereaved POWs in both countries, as the prime responsibility of the committee and its good name, should transcend political goals motivated by short run gains.

Second International Environmental Conference Ends

*LD2904091992 Tehran IRNA in English
0648 GMT 29 Apr 92*

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—The second International Conference on Environment Planning and Management ended here Tuesday by issuing a resolution which called for establishment of a regional association by experts.

The two-day conference was attended by a number of Iranian environmentalists and experts from 19 foreign countries including China, Hong Kong and India. The experts discussed environmental issues including air pollution, industrial sewage and garbage.

The participants also called for formation of a regional association which among other things should hold a regional session every other year, arrange special seminars and conferences and also publish specialized magazines on environment.

In the closing session of the conference, Iran and India proposed offering short-term courses in regional countries to enable the experts to deal with environmental problems.

The first International Conference on Environment Planning and Management was held in India in 1990. Venue of the next conference which will be held in 1994 has not yet been decided. China, Hong Kong and India have proposed to host the forthcoming conference.

The participants of the conference will tour Iran's ancient city of Isfahan.

Agreement Signed With Foreign Consortium To Construct Dam

*LD3004203292 Tehran IRNA in English
1601 GMT 30 Apr 92*

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Iran on Thursday signed a contract with a consortium of German, Brazilian, Swiss and Austrian companies for construction of a dam and its 2,000 megawatt power station in Khuzestan Province.

The contract worth dlrs 1.25 billion in foreign exchange and rials 150 billion in Iranian currency covers the construction of a double curvature concrete dam which is 200 meters high over the River Karun, 25 kms southeast of Izeh in southern province of Khuzestan.

The capacity of the power station to be set up besides the dam can be raised from 2,000 to 3,000 megawatts.

The foreign exchange needed for the project will be provided by financial institutions of the countries making up the consortium.

Japan To Invest \$250 Million in Qeshm Island Development

*LD1005190992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 10 May 92*

[Text] Mr. Shams-Ardakani, the head of Qeshm free-trade zone, announced the method for attracting foreign capital toward the implementation of an industrial and development project on Qeshm Island. He said: Work on a complex for iron reduction, for which the primary agreement was signed with the Japanese Kobe Steel company, will begin this fall with a capital investment of \$250 million.

Referring to talks with the German Siemens Company on starting the Qeshm power plant, he said: Talks on this project have reached the final phase.

Asked about other development projects, Mr. Shams-Ardakani said: By the end of Khordad this year [21 June 1992] the building work of Qeshm Island's sports and cultural complex will be completed. The cost of completing this project will be over 1.25 billion rials, and the complex is unique among the neighboring provinces.

He added: In accordance with the policy of implementing cultural projects in the deprived regions of the country, this year 800 million rials is being allocated to promote cultural activities on Qeshm Island.

Volume of Trade With Germany Increases

*92AS0834B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 30 Mar 92 p 2*

[Text] Bonn, March 29 (IRNA)—Trade volume between Iran and Germany amounted to an unprecedented level of 8.2 billion German marks for 1991, an Economics Ministry statement said here March 24.

During the same period, Germany's exports to Iran, 58 percent more than 1990, amounted to 6.7 billion marks while its imports, with an increase of 15 percent over the preceding year, stood at 1.5 billion marks.

Meanwhile, Bonn's exports to Arab states last year exceeded 14.9 billion marks, only 0.6 percent more than the preceding year, while its imports, mainly oil, amounted to 12.5 billion marks, 4.3 percent more than 1990.

Germans Accused of Undermining Currency

*NC1005113492 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
21 Apr 92 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "The German Embassy's Efforts To Weaken the 'Rial'"]

[Text] The German Embassy in Iran is demanding that people wanting to visit Germany pay visa charges in Deutsche marks. This idea ridicules international currency and foreign exchange regulations.

The German Embassy is undermining the credibility and value of the Iranian rial in international currency and banking circles, a very irresponsible move.

The Germans have adopted the same attitude in similar cases, when they sought to contravene legal norms with regard to the Iranian Government. An example is when assistance was given to Iraqi Kurdish refugees, who had taken shelter in Iran from the tyranny, oppression, and military attacks of the Iraqi regime. The German Government ignored all international regulations and violated Iran's sovereignty by conveying aid directly to the Kurds, using German personnel and helicopters and excluding Iranian officials.

If this issue had been decisively tackled at the time, and the Germans had been warned that there is no place in Islamic Iran for Western bullying or arrogant posturing, the German Government would certainly not have dared to disregard international rules and regulations so audaciously now. It would not have attempted to substitute the mark for the rial, thus calling into question the value of the rial.

We do not know whether the German Embassy is taking this action on its own initiative or whether it is being done with the knowledge of the Central Bank and the Foreign Ministry. Does the German Embassy have the right to impose rules that undermine the Iranian rial? If not, why aren't our Foreign Ministry and financial officials taking a stand? They should make the Germans understand that in Islamic Iran, we will not repeat the bitter experiences of the tyrannical Shah's regime, when every embassy acted autonomously, doing whatever it pleased.

Imports From Germany Increase 61-Percent

LD2904084992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0630 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] According to the statistics released by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on trade between Iran and Germany, Iran's imports from Germany in 1991 amounted, to 6.728 billion deutschmarks [DM] showing a 61.03-percent increase compared with the previous year.

In 1991, Iran exported DM1.489 billion worth of commodities to Germany, showing a 16-percent increase compared with the previous year.

On the basis of this report, the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes the main importer of German commodities in Asia, after Japan and Turkey. Germany, too, occupies the most important position in terms of importing Iranian nonoil goods.

German, Austrian, Brazilian Firms in Dam Project

LD0705212792 Tehran IRNA in English
0703 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Bonn, May 7, IRNA—The Energy Ministry of Iran has signed a DM [German mark] 2,000-million contract with the Asian branch of Brown Boveri ABB for building a 2,000 megawatt hydropower plant in Iran's Khuzestan Province. Negotiations for financing the project are under way.

The contract comprises a dam and a hydropower plant somewhere on the River Karun in Iran's Khuzestan Province, and is expected to be ready for operation in the autumn of 1998. Negotiations for financing the project are now under way.

The project known as "Karun-3" is to be undertaken jointly by ABB Kraftwerke Mannheim, and Sulzer Escher Wyss of Germany, Voest-Alpine of Austria, and Andrade Gutierrez of Brazil.

Of the total contract price DM 560 million will go to Brown Boveri ABB, DM 875 million to Andrade Gutierrez, DM 375 million to Sulzer Escher Wyss, and DM 325 million to Voest-Alpine of Austria. The European partners have undertaken to supply equipments and machinery for the project. The Brazilian company has undertaken to build a dam in the River Karun which will supply water for the hydropower plant.

The project, the largest development plan in post-revolution Iran, will supply 2,000 mw power to the national power grid in Iran.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Envoy to Pakistan Denies Commando Dispatch to Afghanistan

BK0805111392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
8 May 92 p 4

[Text] Peshawar, May 7—The Iranian ambassador in Islamabad Javad Mansuri denied Thursday that his country had sent commandos to Afghanistan, saying the newsport claiming commandos despatch was "absolutely false and baseless."

Talking to THE MUSLIM on telephone here Thursday the ambassador also categorically denied that Iran was interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and said that his country strictly believed in noninterference in others' affairs and that Afghanistan's internal problems should be sorted out by the Afghans themselves. The conditions inside Afghanistan he added must be improved by the Afghans and no country had the right to interfere therein.

Iran, he said, had only sent food, medicine, and blankets for the Afghan people and that it had no other motive.

"We have always been keen for the peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue. We will be too glad to see the situation normalised," he said.

Asked if the repatriation of the Afghan refugees had started from Iran, Ambassador Mansuri said the pace was very slow because of some practical difficulties including the existence of large number of mines inside Afghanistan that had not yet been cleared. The return, he hoped, would pick up as soon as the situation returns to normal.

The Iranian envoy, who was here on a short visit, met a number of ulema drawn from different schools of thought. They were Maulana Rahmat Hadi, Manlana Mohammad Din, Maulana Mohammad Shoaib, Maulana Ghulam Ali Zahid, and Maulana Syed Jawwad Hussain.

Fresh Water Pipeline to Qatar Due Completion Soon

*LD0305195592 Tehran IRNA in English
1736 GMT 3 May 92*

[Text] Doha, May 3, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today expressed hope that the fresh water pipeline from Iran to Qatar would be completed in the near future.

He made the remark in a meeting with Qatari heir apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

Oil-rich Qatar lacks fresh water sources and the joint project across the Persian Gulf is expected to ease the desert emirate's drinking water problems.

Besharati also thanked Qatar for recognizing the interim ruling council in Afghanistan, and said situation in Kabul, is gradually moving towards total stability.

On Tehran's stance concerning the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union, Besharati said Iran is not seeking any particular goal in its mediation efforts to settle the Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, except for maintaining a ceasefire and peace in the Caucasus.

"The positive outcome of Iran's humanitarian efforts warrants the Islamic republic to continue its mission until the establishment of a permanent tranquility in that region," he added.

Turning to Iran's viewpoints towards the U.N. Security Council's approvals on Iraq, he said Iran respects the charter and approvals of the United Nations.

Shaykh Hamad in reply called for the expansion of Tehran-Doha relations, and hoped that mutual ties between the two countries would be a model for all countries particularly those of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council.

He said there is no limit to the expansion of bilateral ties, and that Qatar is ready for multilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and good neighbourhood.

Besharati is in Qatar to make preparations for the visit to Doha of First Vice President Hasan Habibi on Tuesday.

Customs issues, social and labour affairs, medical education and exchange of news between the news agencies of the two countries are expected to be raised during Habibi's visit.

In a separate meeting today Besharati and his Qatari counterpart, Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Mahmud, agreed to set up joint sub-commissions to study issues of common interest and to prepare a draft for mutual cooperation.

Foreign ministry officials of the two countries will meet shortly to follow up the issues.

Afghan Hezbollah Thanks Khamene'i for Support

*LD0805133692 Tehran IRNA in English 1146 GMT
8 May 92*

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—The Hezbollah of Afghanistan today thanked the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, for his statement of support last week on the victory of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan.

The Hezbollah also expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting the 14-year old "sacred struggle" of the Afghan Muslims against the Soviet-installed communist regime.

"The people of Afghanistan will forever keep alive its importance in the proud history of the Islamic revolution," it added.

Official Says Wrong Method Eliminated Afghan Group

*LD0305095892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
30 Apr 92*

[Text] The representative of the leadership in Afghan affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ebrahimi, at a gathering of non-Iranian clerics in the Mashhad seminary this afternoon in the Razavi University for Islamic Sciences, described the victory of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan as God's grace. He said: The Afghan nations's jihad is based on pure Muhammadan Islam and has no affiliation to outsiders and will not have such affiliation. What can be seen today among the ranks of mojahedin in Kabul makes one hopeful about the bright future of Afghanistan.

Stating that in the battle of the Afghan people all the groups were present side by side, he called for maintaining this unity to achieve final victories and warned them against the plots of the enemies of Islam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ebrahimi considered the gradual elimination of one of the Afghan groups to be the result of its wrong methods and nature. He said: Fortunately, one of the distinctions that was present at this phase was that the Sunni and Shi'ite issue was not raised and the enemy has not been able to benefit from the weapon of religion against religion.

Referring to the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] regarding refugees, he said: Afghan refugees are the IRI's guests. Until circumstances are right and they themselves are willing to leave Iran, Iran will be their host.

More on Islamic Unity Party, Afghan Government Talks

LD1005162892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 May 92

[Excerpt] Greetings dear viewers. Let me draw your attention to the bulletin's foreign news. Official negotiations between the Afghan Hezb-e Wahadat-e Eslami [HWE] and the interim government of Afghanistan toward the resolution of their differences and toward this group's participation in the government and the 51-member council are continuing.

Seyyed Mostafa Kazemi, member of the HWE Central Committee, announced this fact to an IRNA correspondent at noon today, and added: Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the head of the interim government, has agreed that the rights of the HWE have been overlooked, and has given assurances that the necessary steps will be taken to obtain HWE's satisfaction. Kazemi described the current structure of the interim government as incomplete and unjust. He said: The equitable presence of all mojahedin forces, clergymen, and intellectuals would be the only way of ensuring real stability in Afghanistan; the HWE is playing an active role in the provision of security in Kabul, and factional issues and differences of opinion have not prevented the fulfillment of that important task.

Eshaqzadeh, member of the HWE Political and Military Committee, for his part, told our correspondent: The coalition of the forces of the North, including the Hezb-e Jam'iyat-e Eslami, the HWE, and the forces of General Dostum and other forces, have used their initiative, and by capturing Mazar Sharif and Bagram have inflicted a great blow on the plan for the return of a monarchy and of Zahir Shah to Afghanistan. Eshaqzadeh said that it was only through the consideration of the size and make-up of the Mojahedin groups that one could hope for the establishment of a popular and Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Eshaqzadeh expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in the past 14 years and said: Iran's support created the conditions for the strong organization of the oppressed in Afghanistan in the face of the occupiers. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's revolutionary

stance have defeated the new world order desired by the United States for the region and have brought about the conditions for security, stability, and fraternal existence among Islamic and regional countries. [passage omitted on AFP report about cease-fire negotiations with Hekmatyar]

Velayati Urges More International Aid for Afghanistan

*LD0505165892 Tehran IRNA in English
1536 GMT 5 May 92*

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called on international organizations to seriously consider helping the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Velayati made the call in a meeting with representatives of international organizations in Tehran, where he said contributing to the reconstruction of Afghanistan is a key factor for establishment of stability and security in the region.

Ways for providing world aid to Afghanistan were also discussed in the meeting, with the participants terming cooperation of the neighbouring countries particularly Iran in this regard as "vital."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamenei in a message to the world countries and organizations on Sunday called on them to help the people of Afghanistan, and today's meeting was held in this regard.

Food, Medical Aid Sent to Afghanistan

*LD0605213992 Tehran IRNA in English
0925 GMT 6 May 92*

[Text] Birjand, Khorasan Prov., May 6, IRNA—The fifth convoy of relief supplies were sent to 'Farah' Province of Afghanistan on Wednesday.

The relief aids including 105 tons of foodstuffs including flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, potato, medicine, blanket, shoes, tea and fuels were sent on 30 truck.

In the past two weeks Iran has airlifted relief supplies to the war-stricken in Kabul and the flood-stricken in the Nimroz Province.

Presently, a team of Iranian physicians are providing medical care for the patients in Farah province. Since its arrival in the area ten days ago the Iranian doctors have treated 500 patients.

Thirty-Truck Aid Convoy Arrives in Farah Province

*LD1005165392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 9 May 92*

[Text] A convoy of aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in the capital of the Afghan province of Farah today. The aid consists of 30 trucks carrying basic goods

and necessities, which have been handed over to the Jihadi Council of the province of Farah for general distribution. In this connection, Radio Farah expressed gratitude on behalf of the townspeople and the Jihadi Council for this second convoy of aid from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Cleric Stresses Need for Religious Unity in Afghanistan

LD2804102192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Members of the Afghan 51-man council must avoid factionalism and discord and pave the way for the establishment of an Islamic system in Afghanistan on the basis of a referendum. This was said by Mulawi-Khodadad, one of Herat's prominent clerics, in an interview with an IRNA correspondent in Herat. He added: Unity can only be established through obeying the religious leaders, and to realize this important goal one must turn to Imam Khomeyni, the founder of Shi'ite-Sunni unity in the present age. He added: The key to the success of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan can be found in the shadow of Koranic guidance, the unity of the word between the Shi'ites, Sunnis, and jihadi groups, and by virtue of divine blessing.

The prominent cleric described the Islamic Republic of Iran's role in the Islamic world as positive and constructive, and said: The speech made by the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry advisor at Herat's first Friday prayers on the need to safeguard Afghanistan's territorial integrity and prevent its disintegration, has opened a new horizon in bringing the two countries' peoples closer.

Flexibility Urged for Afghan Mojahedin Leaders

LD0505172292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 5 May 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The various reports on the Afghan situation do not quite tell us how the practical ground for forming a transitional government and holding elections acceptable to all jihadi groups will be prepared. One issue currently under discussion is that of settling internal differences and dividing power among these groups, each of which considers itself endowed with greater prerequisites. Meanwhile, setting aside the assertions made by each of these groups, one should bear in mind the fact that monopolizing power in its traditional molds will be impossible; hence, any attempt to impose a dominant power will only serve to complicate the situation further and will be of no help to any of the principal powerseekers. As for appointing a transitional government, the leaders of the Kabul-based mojahedin groups have themselves admitted that they have tough negotiations ahead, negotiations which will continue despite the

absence of common views among the mojahedin leaders. It is important to note that the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously attempting to find a peaceful solution to which end Tehran-Islamabad officials have been continuing their contacts. It is expected that the leaders of the Afghan Muslim mojahedin groups, who have secured major victories and honors for their oppressed nation in the past 14 years, will put that country on the track of a final peace by virtue of their understanding of the present sensitive conditions since the chances of ethnic and religious rivalries easily substituting international rivalries are great. Thus, it seems that the final solution to settling Afghanistan's internal problems lies in a sort of national compromise and flexibility of all the powerseekers.

Tehran-Baku Air Link To Be Established

92AS0787B Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Feb 92 p 4

[News Report: "Engineer Hasan Shafti, Executive Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Airways Told Journalists, 'Air Links Will Be Established Soon Between Tehran and Baku'"]

[Text] Service Pool: Air service from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Baku, capital of the Azerbaijan Republic, will start in the month of Esfand [20 Feb-20 Mar] of the current year.

Our correspondent reports that Engineer Hasan Shafti made the announcement of the air link yesterday morning in an interview with press, radio, and television correspondents.

He added, "Under an agreement that we have concluded with Armenian Airways, with the cooperation of HOMA [former Iran National Airways now Islamic Republic of Iran Airways], the Armenian airways will schedule once-a-week flights from Yerevan to Tehran."

Shafti also stated that air service by HOMA to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, would begin for the first time on 'Id-e Fetr holiday next year.

He referred to the significant decrease in travel to Japan and said that the reason for the decrease was the obstacles created by the Government of Japan for Iranians seeking work in that country.

The number of Iranians who had traveled to Japan without a visa last year and who had been sent back was unprecedented.

He added, "The sale of plane tickets by the Islamic Republic Airways for the summer of 1371 [1992] for flights to Tokyo will be conducted by mail and the announcement of the procedure to be followed will be published in the newspapers for the benefit of the public."

He asked the people not to contact the sales offices of the Islamic Republic Airways until the press announcement.

Shafiti added, "HOMA flights to Arabia carrying Haj pilgrims will begin from the second half of the month of Ordibehest 1371 [21 Apr 92-21 May 93] 1371; in preparation for these flights, the Islamic Republic had already started having its planes inspected and repaired."

He said, "HOMA will continue its weekly six flights to carry pilgrims for the Umrah pilgrimage [the smaller pilgrimage to Mecca, one performed at any occasion except during the designated Haj month]."

He announced that the last flight for Umrah pilgrims would be on 30 Bahman [19 Feb] and the return flight on 14 Esfand [4 Mar] of the current year.

Engineer Shafiti detailed the performance of the Islamic Republic Airways in the current year and said that HOMA aircraft had made 30,600 flights this year, a 12 percent increase over the first nine months of the previous year.

Also, the air service carried 4,700,000 passengers on domestic flights, an increase of 150 percent compared to a decade ago.

He added, "Last year, the Airways carried 1,176,000 passengers on its international flights, whereas only 415,000 passengers were carried over a similar period 10 years ago."

He placed the total number of passengers carried by HOMA on both domestic and international flights as more than 5 million and added, "The number of passengers in a comparable time period was 2 million 133 thousand. The increase does not bear a logical ratio to the increase in our potentials; in fact, the shortage of facilities and equipment has been compensated through the efforts of our manpower."

He noted that at present, the aviation system was placed in an unreasonable squeeze and said, "Demand for domestic flights has reached almost three times the supply."

From the point of view of supply and demand; hidden potentials; ecological conditions and transportation in general, the Islamic Republic of Iran Airways is in an unusual position compared to airline companies in other countries."

Shafiti pointed out that the shortage of specialists, including both ground technical crew and flight crew, was one of the problems facing the airways. He said, "The existence of multiple centers of decision making in the country's aviation system was another problem, which is creating a lack of needed harmony in the system."

He pointed out that HOMA employees enjoyed a high standard in regard to hours of work and expertise and said, "The wage system in HOMA including both salaries and benefits was governed by the general administrative system; and contrary to the practise in many

similar companies in other countries, the management did not play a significant part in determining the necessary conditions for its expert manpower."

In conclusion, he said, "The cargo load for the first nine months of the year was less than that carried in the last nine months due to the shortage of manpower and the allocation of specialized employees to passenger aircraft."

Agricultural Experiments Planned With Turkmenistan

92AS0787A Tehran ETTELA'At in Persian 15 Feb 92 p 4

[News Report: "100 Hectares in the Ashkabad area of Turkmenia Will Be Planted With Potatoes by Agriculture Experts From the Province of Khorasan"] experts from the province of Khorasan will undertake an experimental planting of potatoes on 100 hectares in the Ashkabad area, the capital of the republic of Turkmenistan.

According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, Engineer Nadaf, the Khorasan province undersecretary for administrative and agricultural infrastructure affairs made the above announcement and said, "Under the agreement recently concluded between the agriculture officials of Khorasan province and the Republic of Turkmenistan, 10 tons of wheat (Roshan and Sardari varieties) from Khorasan will be exchanged for 10 tons of wheat (Spartankar and Askan Fianka varieties) from this republic for the purpose of propagation by each side."

He added, "Within the framework of the same agreement, it was stipulated that for next spring's planting, 50 tons of grain seeds (Qods and Roshan varieties) will be sent to the republic of Turkmenistan in exchange for 100 tons of cotton seed cakes."

He added that 35 experts from both sides will undergo educational and specialization courses in cotton and beet farming in the agricultural education center of Mashhad and Ashkabad's college of agriculture.

Paper on Ashkhabad Meeting, Regional Alliance

LD1305193992 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT
13 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA—The Persian daily ABRAR in its editorial Wednesday lauded the summit meet in Ashkhabad of the heads of state of Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and of those of the Central Asian states as an ideal meeting for building the pillars of a regional alliance.

It said the current developments in the western hemisphere warrant the banding into regional alliances of neighbour countries and predicted that an alliance between the states whose heads met in Ashkhabad Monday can prove very useful if it is conceived without

the idea of political supremacy of any one state over any other state within that alliance.

The daily's editorial said:

"The most significant assembly of the Central Asian heads of state in Ashkhabad and the presence in it of the presidents of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey has raised fresh hopes for the creation of a big economic and political alliance in the region.

"The accelerating tempo of the world developments during the terminal years of the 20th century, the change in the political geography in the former Soviet Union and in East Europe, the unity of the two Germanys, and the collapse of the communist system have created new conditions warranting the preparedness of the so-called 'south states' for coping with the realities of the future world.

"Among the most crucial musts for living in the future world is coexistence complemented by regional cooperation.

"Western Europe has long since adapted itself for coping with the future conditions, and is going to assimilate Eastern Europe within its own community.

"The United States continues to rivet its eyes on the world with predatory ambition having put its hands on the Arabs' oil as a victorious accomplishment in the wake of its war with Iraq. Japan, the industrial giant of the world today and tomorrow is going ahead cleverly on the political and economic path because it sees its own survival as a powerful country contingent upon its steady reliance on advanced industries and technology.

"The proposition that the future world will be one of regional alliances is already becoming a reality whereby the most natural alternative open to the south-countries is to get into alliances capable of warranting their survival in the new era of economic competitions.

"The Ashkhabad summit is meaningful to Iran, Pakistan and Turkey as much as it was meaningful to the newly-independent countries because the summit founded the pillars of a big economic and political alliance.

"Of importance in the formation of such an alliance is the subtle job of handling its operational aspects without getting involved in political tensions. A regional economic alliance can be useful without the presence in it of an aspiration for political supremacy. It can help if it is conceived on the basis of an effective economic collaboration in the interest of all its members."

ARMENPRESS, IRNA Reach Agreement on News Exchange

*LD0705225692 Tehran IRNA in English
1712 GMT 7 May 92*

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and Armenia's News Agency (ARMENPRESS) reached an agreement in principle on exchange of news.

The agreement was outlined here today between visiting director of ARMENPRESS, George I. Hovhannessian and Deputy Managing Director of IRNA Issa Saharkhiz.

In accordance with the agreement the two news agencies will exchange world news in line with the policy of letting the peoples of their countries be on the current of the latest events.

The final agreement will be signed by the two agencies during the Sixth General Conference of the Non-Aligned News Agencies, Pool, in Tehran next month.

ARMENPRESS is not a Pool member yet and along with the other newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union will attend the conference as a guest.

George L. Hovhannessian arrived in Tehran Wednesday with an Armenian delegation headed by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Hopes for 'Model' Pilgrimage

*LD0505112992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
5 May 92*

[Text] The great pilgrimage congress of the year 1371 [21 Mar 92-20 Mar 93] began at the holy shrine of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God's mercy be upon his soul, this morning with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to a report of our correspondent, during these ceremonies, also attended by the responsible officials, the managers and the clerical members of the pilgrimage convoys, the president expressed satisfaction with the way the pilgrimage rituals were performed last year.

Referring to the planning for this year's pilgrimage, the president said: Praise be to God, the planning of pilgrimage affairs is compatible with the status of the Islamic revolution and in line with the instruction of our late imam, and brings a glad tidings for the current year.

While reiterating the religious-spiritual importance of pilgrimage, the president asked the clergymen accompanying the pilgrimage convoys to pursue the objectives of the pilgrimage during this important visit, and to seek to please God by not behaving like those who see a single dimension of matters.

Referring to the political aspect of the pilgrimage, addressing the responsible officials, the managers and the clergymen of the convoys, the president said: The world of Islam is currently facing various problems, including the old issue of Palestine, to which much thought and effort should be given. The issues of Algeria, Libya, Kashmir, Lebanon; the issue of the innocent Muslims who have been forced out of Yugoslavia and the crimes which are committed in the region of Bosnia-Herzegovina daily; and the problems of the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union; are all problems that must be raised. They should be raised in such a manner that the government of Saudi Arabia realizes that we do not intend to create trouble, to show that the Muslims face difficulty; and the problems of the world of Islam should be analyzed with adroitness and proper planning and a solution should be found for each problem skillfully.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that when social and political objectives are pursued, it creates cooperation in the world of Islam and not division. He continued: Attention must be paid to the political aspect of pilgrimage, for in fact it is the political interests of the world which are being raised. This task was performed well last year and there was no problem.

The president added: If the pilgrims are supposed to express their disavowal of the infidels, or if the Abrahamic pilgrimage is going to be revived, which in fact is the case, then one should think of some measures so that it does not influence other objectives negatively; and no doubt if excesses and extremes are avoided, one can perform the pilgrimage rituals as desired by Islam.

Referring to the point that today the world of Islam need unity more than anything else, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: The objective is to bring the Muslims closer to each other and to avoid division, which would serve nobody's interests.

Our country's president expressed the hope that this year's pilgrimage would be a model pilgrimage and its religious and anti-arrogance dimension would not be forgotten, thanks to the measures undertaken, for our late imam has specified its objectives.

Minister Says No Deviation From Khomeyni's Path

*LD0305175992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
3 May 92*

[Text] The minister of culture and Islamic guidance has declared that the foundations of many government cultural activities are based on the views of his eminence the imam, God's benedictions be upon him, and the honorable leader, and they are also endorsed by the system.

Mr. Khatami, minister of culture and Islamic guidance, taking part in a question time with students on the anniversary of the martyrdom of lecturer Mottahari at Tehran University Mosque, made some remarks referring to the influence of Islamic ideology, which has escalated throughout the world since the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic. He remembered the honorable martyr Ayatollah Mottahari as the pioneer of Islamic vision and noted: Today we are in need of Martyr Mottahari's ideology more than any other time.

On the ministry's programs and policies, Mr. Khatami said: The foundations of the majority of art and cultural activities are based on the views of his eminence the imam and the esteemed leadership, and they are also approved by the system. Of course there are people who do not accept our programs and oppose them. That is inappropriate to say that their views should be granted action. We say that the views of the imam, God's mercy upon him, and those of the leadership should be granted action.

Mr. Khatami said: We do not claim that our work is faultless, but it is not incorrect that through their opposition some people try to put question, directly or indirectly, the views of his eminence the imam, God's benedictions be upon him. If there is a counterindication against a piece of film or music, we cannot declare films or music as inadmissible and thereby spoil the whole issue.

On the actions taken by the Ministry of Guidance to counter cultural onslaught, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance said: As the person in charge of the Ministry of Guidance, I believe that we have been most active in that regard, and we are among the most active committees set up to confront such onslaught.

Mr. Khatami referred to the offense committed by FARAD magazine and said: That is the biggest press offense that has taken place in the country. It had to be strongly dealt with and it was dealt with. The magazine's license to print was revoked and its file was handed over to the judicial authorities.

Mr. Khatami added: We have defended the press law and we will continue to do so, and we will also decisively deal with any kind of violations of it. But we also advise those who use this issue as a means to their own ends to exercise fairness.

Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Second Friday Prayer

*LD2404144192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
24 Apr 92*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 24 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I only tell you something

briefly so that it cannot be said that he has only given one sermon, but that he has given two. I just want it to be true if that is said that he has given two sermons and then end my remarks. But at the same time we must do something so that the sermon does not end before time. We thank God who blessed us with his divine invisible assistance. Despite the wishes of the bullies, the world-devourers' stand, and the corruption and troublemaking of the corrupt, he sent forth the Islamic revolution with his powerful hand. He took our justice-seeking voice to the farthest Muslim inhabited areas. He pushed aside the dark clouds, despatched the hellish powers, which mankind admitted the inability to confront, to their doom and obliterated them. He awakened the Muslims and spread the seeking of Islam worldwide.

Brethren, sisters, valiant Muslims. Today God has given you golden opportunities, which you could not even dream about. By the grace of the creator, Afghanistan has been freed from tyranny and oppression. God willing, their decisionmaking and their fate will fall into their own hands. As for Iran, there is nothing to say. And as for the Soviet Muslim-inhabited republics—something we did not think even possible—where on the whole 50, 60, 70, 80 million Muslims; they also were liberated in such a wonderful way. Those are the Muslim inhabited areas. They are the potential power of Islam. If Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, the Muslim-inhabited republics have some independence, economic independence, political independence, form a power, and together lay the foundations of Islamic living, not only the united Europe, but even the United States shall not have any sleep and there is no doubt about that. [crowd chants: "God is great, death to United States, death to Israel"]

Those are merely non-Arab territories. If we take the Arab territories into account: Algeria, well, now you can see what its situation is, you can see what is Egypt's situation, what is Sudan's situation, and so on. God has.... [pauses] At this juncture this has happened for us. If, God willing, we can use the Muslims—by Muslims I mean us Muslims... [pauses] Of course the enemy is not asleep, the enemy is awake. They want to push Afghanistan into the fire before it even emerges from the frying pan. There the United States has come to implement her scheme. Poor Azerbaijan, the (?captive) Azerbaijan—the 7 million pure Shi'ites, believers in 'Ali Ibn-'Abi-Talib, [Muhammad's son-in-law]—which was a prisoner of the Soviet Union for 70 years! When I travelled there, when I went to Uzbekistan, I saw Muslims there, I saw Islamic services, I saw signs of Islam—in Bokhara, in Samarkand, in Tashkent, and the like. I did not even imagine this before. These are the powers of Islam. But now the United States is setting up an embassy there. Turkey is doing various thing there; and is working against us also.

I do not know whether the Turks have listening ears or not. Do they realize that the route they are following has been followed by our former regime? That the servitude they have embarked on we have tried before? We went down that road; what became of us? What did we gain

from it in the end? Do they mean they will make better gains from it than we did? Will they be given more than we were given? That ship. They make so much hullabaloo over the issue of the ship [reference to the Cape Maleas ship impounded by Turkey]. Or other issues. Then they write that Iran assists the Kurds. Or they go to Azerbaijan and say that Iran assists the Armenians, gives them military aid, gives them arms aid. Something that does not even go through Iran's thoughts. How can a Shi'ite Muslim arm the enemy of Shi'ite Muslims against another Shi'ite Muslim and give him training so that he can kill Shi'ites? Can this ever be? This is an impossibility. These allegations, these acts of creating an adverse atmosphere, and the words they say! Brethren, we must take care. Our enemy is a very dangerous one. He devises the most dangerous plans against us. God willing, God will bless us; send forth his assistance and take away those ominous schemes from our path and will preserve our revolution, our system, our country, our homeland, religion, and Koran from all harm. [passage omitted]

Mojahedin-e Khalq Reports Clashes in Astaneh Over Elections

JN1005173492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] The city of Astaneh in Gilan Province in northern Iran yesterday witnessed a series of violent clashes between Iranians and Guard personnel of the Iranian regime.

In a statement issued in Paris today, the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization said that the clashes erupted immediately after an announcement was made declaring (Hasan Shakhesi) the winner in the so-called legislative elections held in the city yesterday. Citizens took to the streets and smashed the windows of most government buildings, shouting slogans condemning the Iranian regime. This paralyzed life in the city, the statement noted.

The statement indicated that citizens also attacked (Hasan Shakhesi) and caused him to suffer severe wounds. The statement quoted news reports coming from Iran as saying that the Guard personnel and other security troops stationed in the city failed to bring the situation under control, even though they fired intensely on people, wounding scores. This prompted the Iranian regime's authorities, the statement added, to call in reinforcements from other cities in the province.

The statement went on to say that the commander of the security troops stationed in Gilan Province came in person to Astaneh to contain the situation there.

Mashhad Ferdowsi University Activities

PM0805141092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Apr 92 p 4

[Unattributed report on Mashhad's Ferdowsi University]

[Text] The Ferdowsi University at Mashhad was established in 1949 by converting a health education center into a medical university. The existence of the university was announced by the then Ministry of Culture in 1956 when the college of literature and humanities was created and when a formal permit was issued for the university. Colleges of theology and Islamic principles, science, culture, agriculture, and engineering were gradually established during 1957 until 1976. In 1988 a college of administrative science and economics and in 1991 a veterinary college were established.

At present the Ferdowsi University at Mashhad is considered a major center of learning in the country and is thought of as one of Iran's prominent universities.

Students and Education

The teaching units at Ferdowsi University consist of colleges of science, engineering, agriculture, literature and humanities, theology and Islamic principles, culture and psychology, administrative science and economics, veterinary science, and a college of agriculture in Shirvan.

There are 350 faculty members.

The number of courses offered by the Ferdowsi University before the Islamic revolution in 1978 and 1979 were: 24 courses of higher education, 5 courses of further training, and one doctorate course, total 30.

The number of courses offered by the Ferdowsi University after the Islamic revolution in 1990 and 1991 were: 3 courses of vocational training, 45 courses in higher education, 17 courses of further training, and 2 doctorate courses.

These courses will reach more than 320 people.

There are 12 dormitories capable of housing 2,202 students.

There are three cafeterias.

The Central Library and Documents' Center

In addition to providing library services to the university's many units, there are 30,000 Persian and foreign-language books for the students and researchers to use. The libraries of the university, which are fairly well stocked, have some 240,000 volumes in Persian and foreign languages for the students' use. They also provide on a regular basis some 700 periodicals for the use of teachers and students. The theology and Islamic principles college has a collection of 2,500 manuscripts.

The University's Publications' Division

This was established in 1962 and has expanded since then. This organization not only offers printing services to the various units in the university, but also prints scientific journals. It has also printed some 120 titles as a university press.

The Computer and Information and Statistics' Center

This is at present serviced by the IBM 4341 model. This center helps with the presentation of courses and provides computer programming services for the teachers and students in their research programs.

The University's Herbarium

This collects plants from across the country, especially from Khorasan province and provides a complete scientific list of names. It also provides slides of interesting and rare plants for the students.

Research

There are more than 90 research projects at the university. There are also some projects involving the students on the further training courses. The Ferdowsi University at present publishes four scientific journals for the colleges of literature and humanities, theology and Islamic principles, agriculture and engineering. It also places at the disposal of interested parties the results of scientific research. In order to strengthen and expand the teaching and research activity and in order to provide a teaching faculty for the university, some of the university's teachers are at present taking advantage of scholarship facilities to study abroad. Each year several members of the teaching staff visit research centers abroad in order to exchange information and to increase their knowledge. There are others who take part in scientific seminars and conferences inside and outside the country, to exchange scientific ideas and to present papers.

The university is also host to the country's seminar on mathematics and the international seminar on the poet Ferdowsi. The sixth seminar on the promotion of agriculture in the country was held at the Ferdowsi University in Mashhad. There has also been a seminar on the food industry held there.

The Future Plans for the University

A. The goals are to attract expert manpower, to expand the further training courses as well as the doctorate-level courses in accordance with the high levels of expectations set by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. This is along the lines of the goals set for the Islamic Republic of Iran first plan for economic, social, and cultural improvement.

B. There are plans to expand teaching in the following fields:

1. Creation of doctorate-level courses in physics, chemistry, farming, electricity, welfare (construction), theology, and history.

2. Study to establish superior training in economics, culture, zoology, the Koran and religious literature, philosophy, and farming produce industries.

C. There is a shortage of educational space. Help was provided in 1983 in the form of a 300-hectare piece of

land opposite Mellat Park. Once the relevant colleges and facilities have been established in their locations, the final capacity for students at the university will reach 30,000. The current situation of welfare projects at the university is as follows:

1. The project launched by the basic sciences' group:

The studies in this plan for 5,230 students using 52,000 square meters of land are finished and at present half of this project is in use.

2. The plan launched by the technical and engineering group:

Studies for this plan for 8,440 students using 93,000 square meters of land—at the first stage—are at present under way with 34,000 square meters of land being used for 3,000 students. There is another plan for a further 8,000 square meters to be used for workshops which will start this year.

3. The plan launched by the cultural, humanities and social studies.

The general outline of this plan is for the campus for the colleges of literature, theology, administrative sciences, psychology and culture with a capacity for 10,000 students. In order to combat a shortage of space there are at present plans for a project using 2,600 square meters of land for classrooms and teachers' rooms in the current location of the college of literature.

There is also a plan for a physical training center using 1,600 square meters in the university campus.

4. The plan launched by the agriculture and veterinary faculty.

There have been studies for the college of agriculture and veterinary sciences to accommodate 3,250 students in 10 courses using 60,000 square meters of land in the university's campus. If God is willing, building will start this August on 18,000 square meters of the campus.

There are plans for the veterinary college to accept 400 students in the fields of vocational training and doctorate levels on the campus.

5. The plans launched by the agricultural studies.

This includes buildings and equipment at the agriculture facility in Shirvan for 800 students in courses of vocational training, planting, technology, food industries,

and animal husbandry. This will use some 18,000 square meters of land of which 11,000 is under construction.

6. Basic plans, welfare projects and help for the teaching staff.

A. There is a project for building and furnishing dormitories and centers that provide services for students enough for 5,100 students using 110,000 square meters, for which preliminary studies have been completed. At present some 45,000 square meters with a capacity of 1,820 students is under construction on the campus.

B. The study for a project to provide sewers and drinking water and to get rid of surface water on the 300-hectare campus is now complete and if God is willing one third of it will start this year.

C. There are studies to provide sports' facilities on 14,000 square meters the first stage of which is complete. During the current year some 6,000 square meters of this will be brought into use on the campus.

D. There is a project for the university's central building covering 14,000 square meters of land, the first stage of which is complete and at present one-half of this project is in use on the campus.

E. The project for a central library and documents' center.

This project is going to be located on campus where the emergency physics faculty has been moved. This is under study by a consultant.

Administrative and Financial

Agricultural studies: 130,000,000 rials.

Basic studies: 1,180,000,000 rials with 7,565 students.

Humanities: 1,340,000,000 rials with 4,865 students.

Technical and Engineering: 1,020,000,000 rials with 2,933 students.

Veterinary and Agriculture: 820,000,000 rials with 883 students.

Activities to help education: 1,380,000,000 rials.

Administration: 1,620,000,000 rials.

Special budget: 62,000,000 rials.

Welfare Budget: 3,000,000,000 rials.

Research: 180,000,000 rials.

Hard currency provided in 1991 \$2.086 million.

Comparison: The percentage of growth from the start of the five-year plan until March 1991: Current credits, 155 percent, credit given for university's research, 260 percent and attraction of teaching staff, 30 percent.

Mines, Metals Minister Discusses Steel Production

NC1005085792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] In a news conference yesterday, the mines and metals minister said that national steel production reached the 3-million tonne mark in 1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92], almost 1 million tonnes more than in 1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91]. He added that with the steps that have been taken, the quantity of steel produced this [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1993] will be 4-million tonnes. He said that some 200,000 tonnes of steel will be exported in 1371.

Mahluji discussed his inspection of three steel plants in Ahvaz, saying: The reconstruction of these plants, which were damaged during the war, is ongoing. He said: According to plans, 1.1 million tonnes of steel will be manufactured in the Ahvaz Steel Complex; 860,00 [as received] tonnes will be manufactured in the National Industrial Steel Group; and 360,000 tonnes will be manufactured by the Kavian heavy steel rolling plant in 1371.

The minister of mines and metals added that with the reconstruction and modernization of the National Industrial Steel Group production line, the output of this plant will increase to more than 1.3 million tonnes by 1372 [21 Mar 92-20 Mar 93].

Customs Service on Nonoil Exports

LD3004120692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Nonoil goods totalling 2.490 million tons, worth 176 billion rials—equivalent to \$2.514 billion—were exported last year [year ending 21 March 1992].

The Islamic Republic of Iran's customs service announces: The country's nonoil exports, compared with 1369 [year ending March 1991], showed an increase of 15 percent in terms of weight, and 92.40 percent in terms of value. [passage omitted]

Government's 1991 Fiscal Report Viewed

92AS0895E Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 30 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The minister of economy and finance described the government fiscal report for 1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92] in yesterday's, Sunday's, session of the Cabinet. In it the composition of government revenues and expenditures were provided in a comparative form since 1367 [21 Mar 88-20 Mar 89].

According to this report, the share of general revenues in providing for the general expenditures of the government has increased from 49.4 percent in 1367 [1988-89] to 86.9 percent in 1370 [1991-92], and the share of

borrowing from the banking system has decreased from 47.7 percent to 11.8 percent in those years.

The government fiscal report indicates that the ratio of tax revenues to the current expenditures has increased from 28.8 percent to 40.0 percent during the same period.

During the years 1367 [1988-89] to 1370 [1991-92], the current expenditures reached from 80.6 percent to 68.4 percent and the developmental expenditures from 19.4 percent to 31.6 percent, which has followed the policy of increasing the percentage of investment expenditures in the total government payments.

Heavy Industries Output Up; Stock Sales Planned

LD0205080292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Greater output of heavy industries in the year 1371 [21 Mar 92-20 Mar 93] and improvement of the manufacturing units in the state and the private sector demonstrate that the country's policies and industrial development projects are on the right course. The growth also shows that the country's Five-Year Plan in this sector has been realized.

The Heavy Industries Minister, Mr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, in an interview with reporters today explained the country's industrial activities and presented figures showing that production of road building equipment, trucks, buses, minivans, tractors, cars and motorcycles has increased. He said: On the basis of the fixed prices for the year 1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91], production in the heavy industries sector increased to 342 billion rials in the year 1370 [21 Mar 91-21 Mar 92]. This shows a 204-percent increase.

The minister commented on the improved quality of manufactured items: In line with the growth in quantity, we have paid attention to quality as well. Thanks to these policies, the ground is being gradually prepared for healthy competition in the market.

He also said: One of our important plans is the export of heavy industrial products and to be a presence in the international market. In this connection, we have achieved a great deal of success. For example, in the year 1370 we signed agreements to export more than 120 million dollars worth of our products. This is an increase of 390 percent compared with the figure for the previous year.

The Heavy Industries Minister continued: In order to improve the situation of heavy industries, special attention is focused on software and the development of engineering, designing and assembly units.

He added: In order to attract high-calibre management and to safeguard the research incentive of the units, the organization in charge of the expansion and renovation of Iranian industries is prepared to sell 36 percent of

stock in each company to a single buyer, a company or to individual members of the public.

Rafsanjani Opens Jiroft Dam 20 Apr

LD2104113192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 92

[Text] The memorial plaque of the great Jiroft dam was unveiled in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president arrived in Jiroft this evening at the head of a high-ranking delegation. After the official welcoming ceremonies staged by local officials, the president took part in the gathering of the Jiroft authorities and project managers at the site of the Jiroft dam.

During the gathering the president said: One of my wishes has been, and still is, that we manage to control the country's waters and use that God-given gift properly. He added: If we manage during the two five-year plans to achieve that goal, we will make a great historic service to the revolution and the country.

He said: If we manage to produce 20,000 mega watts of electricity from the envisaged seven dams that are under construction, we will have twice the country's current electricity consumption which will be a significant step toward the production of energy.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted: The day that we manage to produce food and energy from water will be the day that we have undertaken the most essential task.

The President added: The Jiroft dam is a very important and complicated dam and we are proud of the fact that it was built by Iranians and without the least bit of help from abroad. It obviously will increase our managers' morale and bravery to embark on other important tasks.

The president expressed satisfaction at the implementation of such great projects in the country and said: God willing, we will witness the completion of other projects in the country by our experts. In that regard I endeavor as a servant because water supply is a solid back up for public investment in various fields.

Commentary on Need To Stabilize Oil Prices

NC1105092992 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 22 Apr 92 p 4

[Ezzatollah Moslehi commentary: "OPEC: Will It Be Able To Surmount Critical Conditions of Reduced Oil Prices?"]

[Text] The OPEC petroleum ministers will meet tomorrow to study the market situation and, if necessary, find ways to further reduce the production ceiling.

During the November session, the OPEC members agreed to meet again in case of an emergency. When an emergency did arise, however, no meeting took place

because of some members' objections. Thus, during the February session, a date was set for the next meeting.

The November session was held at a time when a drop in world oil demand, together with unbridled production, made a return to the quota system very difficult. Thus, discussions during this session were lengthy and extremely heated.

The meeting set a production ceiling which was higher than demand. Together with the low demand for oil, this signaled another crisis in the making. But recent political developments have more or less strengthened oil prices. The sanctions against Libya and its threat to stop oil sales to countries that support these sanctions have increased prices. Meanwhile, repairs in the North Sea oil fields have reduced oil supplies from that region and have led to another increase in prices. The average price per barrel of OPEC oil is now \$17.78, up from \$16.65 in late December.

Even though this figure is still three dollars lower than the minimum basic price of OPEC oil, the fact that the drop in oil prices has stopped gives hope to optimistic observers.

Unfortunately, the situation is such that when one OPEC member is being attacked, other members benefit along with world arrogance. For example, the Persian Gulf war was a tragedy. Even though it inflicted heavy damage on Kuwaiti and Iraqi industrial installations and the United States and its allies benefited from it, oil producers also benefited from the critical situation in the market and the temporary price hike.

The same situation is being repeated with Libya. While the sanctions against Libya have created tension in the market and have led to some increase in oil prices, once again oil producing countries are benefiting from pressure placed on another member. They are hoping to benefit from the small, temporary price hikes, and each one is planning to make up for any drop in oil production caused by a halt in Libyan exports. As with the Gulf crisis, however, these fleeting conditions will not last long.

During this quasicritical situation, the potential remains for a true crisis. The U.S. President, with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia and other oil-producing countries, has been planning to reduce oil prices to solve his country's economic stagnation. During a visit by U.S. officials to Saudi Arabia, Saudi officials promised to do their best to reduce oil prices even further. They have been very successful in carrying out their promise during the past six months. If the sanctions had not been imposed on Libya, oil prices would have plummeted even further. The Libyan crisis will pass, but the United States will increase its efforts unless the powers behind the scenes of world politics replace the current U.S. President who seeks to drastically reduce prices before the U.S. presidential elections. If the warmongering President, who is

not compatible with the new world order, remains in power, an oil crisis will be a relatively effective means to achieve an end.

At any rate, even though oil prices have improved somewhat, this is only temporary and steps should be taken to achieve a real and stable increase in oil prices.

A decision during the upcoming session to further limit production would increase prices and market stability. All the members must agree to this, however. Reports indicate that despite some members' desire to limit production, Saudi Arabia—within the framework of its subservience—is not prepared to do so. Therefore, tomorrow's session is not expected to succeed in dropping the production ceiling.

By reducing oil prices, the United States hopes to intensify the economic crisis in the oil-producing countries, which depend on the foreign exchange they earn from oil exports. In order to increase their production, the United States wants to force them to sell their oil fields or be burdened with loans. When they are unable to repay their debts, these countries will have to sell their oil fields. U.S. officials have been accused of reducing U.S. oil production by decreasing oil prices and discouraging investment. They believe they can take the oil they need from the Persian Gulf by force since oil is cheaper to produce there.

Rafsanjani Praises Railroad Construction Project

*LD2104112492 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT
20 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., April 20, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Monday inspected the construction work on a 700 km railway line linking Bafq, north of here, to this southern provincial capital.

The president, terming the ongoing project as one of "the revolution's major plans and a source of honor" for the country, said "by watching this work one feels confident of the country's good management and the high executive power of Iranian engineers." [passage omitted]

New Ship Added to Commercial Shipping Line

*92AS0895F Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
30 Mar 92 p 3*

[Text] With the addition of the first container ship to the commercial shipping line of the Islamic Republic, from now on the safety factor of goods transported by this fleet within the Persian Gulf waters will increase significantly.

This ship, with a transport capacity of 144 20-foot containers, has a capacity of 2,800 tons and is able to load and unload more than 2,000 tons of container goods in a few hours with its two 5-ton cranes.

This ship, named Ra'is 'Ali Delvari in recognition of the heroism of the Tangestan braves, was purchased from Germany and is 93 meters long, 13.5 meters wide, and 4.41 meters deep.

Fisheries Research Projects Detailed

92AS0887C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Apr 92 p 15

[Text] Economics Desk—Of the 78 applied research projects implemented in the year 1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92], 40 were completed, of which 17 arrived at final conclusions and are ready to be presented to the nation's executive organizations.

Dr. Amini, chief of the Fisheries Research and Education Organization, announced the above at a press conference. He listed this organization's research areas, which include the assessment of reserves, breeding and cultivation, technology for fishing and fishery byproducts, water studies and marine biology. Concerning last year's budget, he said: Last year the total current expense and development budget was 5.6 billion rials, of which 2 billion was for current expenses and the remainder was the development budget. Dr. Amini said the research budget was 890 million rials, 93 percent of which was spent last year.

He also added: The sum of \$2 million was also used last year as the foreign exchange budget, all of which was spent on the purchase from foreign countries of a floating research vessel, scientific texts, and other equipment for the centers.

Continuing he said that the Fisheries Research and Education Organization has seven research centers and two educational centers in the north and the south of the country. He said: Most of the organization's research activities in the year 1370 were done in close contact with the centers of higher learning and had to do with computerizing the information delivery system, the allocation and designation of research priorities, requiring a final defense system for the projects in the faculty, and training research experts.

He then continued: This year there will be about 75 research projects in the area of the nation's fisheries. Likewise 25 to 30 other university projects will be carried out in this area.

He emphasized: During the new year we will seek membership for the Fisheries Research and Education Organization in the Southeast Asia Center for Educational Research (NACA).

Continuing the press conference, Dr. Amini listed the important projects that produced results in the year 1370, which included the assessment of bony fish reserves in the Sea of Mazandaran, the study of the losses caused by the setting of nylon nets, the artificial breeding of [elephant] fish, the identification of various types of

[lobsters], the manufacture of frankfurters and sausages from fish, and the manufacture of chips from shrimp waste.

He said: The seventh meeting of the Committee for Fisheries Development and Management in the Persian Gulf affiliated with [FAO—UN Food and Agriculture Organization] will be held in early fall this year in Tehran. At this meeting issues pertaining to the assessment of fish stocks, fishing laws and regulations, pollution in the Persian Gulf and the adoption of a single set of policies with the participation of the eight Persian Gulf nations will be studied.

In conclusion he discussed this organization's educational activities. He said: The work of preparing a dictionary of names of aquatic animals and an atlas of the fish of the Persian Gulf will be completed by the end of the year 1371 [20 Mar 1993], and the work on the dictionary of fisheries terminology, which began last year, will be completed by the end of the year 1372 [20 Mar 1994].

Construction of Sarakhs Customs Facility Begins

92AS0895A Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
30 Mar 92 p 6

[Interview with Mr. 'Abbasi, the general manager of the customs building for Khorasan Province; place and date not given]

[Text] With the allocation of 7 billion rials in funds, the construction of the customs building in the border city of Sarakhs was begun on a 200-hectare plot of land by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Esmati, the honorable Friday imam of Sarakhs; in the presence of Engineer 'Amidzadeh, the deputy director of the central office of customs buildings of Iran; and Mr. 'Abbasi, the general manager of Mashhad customs and supervisor of Khorasan Province customs office; the contractors; the supervisor and consultants of Sarakhs customs office; the mayor; the central district lieutenant governor; the head of the office of the properties of Imam Reza; and a few officials of that city.

Mr. 'Abbasi, the general manager for customs in the province of Khorasan, announced in an interview with reporters that the customs operations of Sarakhs will be in three phases. In the first phase, the construction of two (sulehs) with 2,000 square meters on 3 hectares of land has now begun with 1 billion rials in funds. In the second phase, two-thirds of the expenditures will be paid; and in the third phase, which will last until early 1374 [21 Mar 95-20 Mar 96], the remainder will be paid. He added: The land for the construction, 200 hectares, was chosen with the participation of the people and the office of endowments for the shrine of Imam Reza on the shore of the border river, Tajan, at the zero-km point, in Sarakhs, which includes 6,000 square meters of administrative, personnel, residential and organizational buildings, and storage places for industrial and petrochemical materials, as well as roads, railroads,

loading docks, bridges, train depots, and 40,000 square meters of recreational facilities. In connection with the border bridge, which will be installed on the border river, Tajan, he added: Because the work is easy, instructions have been made to install a floating bridge on the river; but the main bridge, with 2 billion rials in funding, will be built by the railroads of the Islamic Republic. He said: With the installation of the floating bridge, in the next five months our connection will be more rapid. Regarding the traffic of border and international passengers through Sarakhs customs, Mr. 'Abbasi said: At the present, the Sarakhs border is a commercial border, and the Bajiran border is a passenger border for people to and from Turkmenistan. It is possible that in the near future, a common market will be created in Sarakhs for selling and purchasing people's goods. But at the present, the Sarakhs border is a commercial one for the export and import of goods. The general manager of Khorasan Province customs office, explaining the global importance of Sarakhs customs, said that Sarakhs customs facility is larger than the Jolfa customs facility and is one of the largest Iranian, indeed Middle Eastern, customs facilities due to the connection between the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad and the railroads of the Republic of Turkmenistan to China, Japan, and the Far East. Because of the loading of goods and their export to the Persian Gulf and African countries, customs is very important. Also, in regards to starting businesses in the Sarakhs customs building and creating a border businessmen's cooperative company, he said: Businesses have been designed for the border dwellers in Lotfabad and Bajgiren, but Sarakhs is a trading border. He added: Considering the existence of fruit orchards and the abundance of agricultural products in Sarakhs, this city has potential for businesses which, God willing, with the coordination of the governor general's office of Khorasan, we hope to be able to announce Sarakhs as a business border as well, so that businessmen can engage in the trading of goods. Also, describing the excellent coordination between the officials and the people of Sarakhs, he expressed hope that in the next two months the (sulehs) of Sarakhs customs will be installed and become operational. He added: With the coordination with the private sector and the absorption of large capital investments by other cities in the country and also considering the Hadishahr plan of Sarakhs and that the Sarakhs border is a commercial one, we want investments by the private sector in connection with building large hotels in Sarakhs. He expressed hope that while it is economical to export goods through the customs and not economical to smuggle goods, with the start of the operations of this customs, we shall witness the elimination of poverty, prevent migration to large cities and create jobs in economic terms in this border city. Continuing this interview, Engineer 'Amidzadeh, the deputy director of the central office for Iranian customs buildings, said to our reporter: For the present, a temporary building will be built for equipping the workshop, management, and construction of the Sarakhs customs facility, for which the (sulehs) are being completed, and by next Khordad [22 May-21 Jun] will be operational. The first phase of the Sarakhs customs construction will take one and one-half years to complete.

Role, Activities of National Library Detailed
92AS0834A Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 28 Mar 92 p 13

[Text] The National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran has nearly half a million books. Following the ratification of its constitution, the library entered a new phase of activities which can be interpreted as another birth for this scientific, research and service organization. The library, after many ups and downs, has reached a point where proper planning can stabilize its situation as an excellent, as well as the central library in Iran. The library can then satisfy the growing needs of researchers and scientists and take a place among all other reputable international libraries. Iran's National Bibliography being hailed as one of the ten outstanding international bibliographies, by the International Librarian's Conference is one of the achievements of the Library. The ratification of the constitution of the National Library by the Majles (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) has given impetus to the officials of the library for expanded and precise scientific planning for the institution.

Muhammad Rajabi, the head of library in this regard says, "The Majles is responsible for the foundation of the future National Library of Iran because the Majles closely studied and surveyed the bill on the library's constitution for two years. In its first open session, the Majles deputies, as their first deliberation, approved the generalities of the library's constitution. In their second deliberation, they ratified the library's constitution. This means that the constitution of the National Library of Iran was ratified by the Majles and it cannot be changed or modified by any official body except the Majles."

A Look at the Library's Constitution

The National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a scientific, research, educational and service institute which is under the direct supervision of the president. The library is managed according to its constitution and it is located in Tehran.

The library is a government owned institution and its budget is allotted from the national budget.

Article three of library's constitution explains the objectives of the library as follows:

1. Collecting, preserving, organizing and disseminating information regarding the written (printed or handwritten matters) or unwritten works in Iran or belonging to Iranians abroad.
2. Collecting, preserving, organizing and disseminating information regarding written (printed or handwritten) and unwritten matters on Iranian, and Islamic studies, specially the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini (God bless his soul).

3. Collecting, preserving, organizing and disseminating information regarding written and unwritten reputable scientific, cultural and technical books from other countries.

4. Scientific research and planning on book preservation and information dissemination, as well as participating in related international activities.

5. Making necessary decisions for facilitating, accelerating and approving research and study efforts in all fields of endeavor in order to upgrade the national culture.

6. Undertaking consultation, supervision and guidance, as well as delivering technical services, planning and organizing other libraries throughout Iran.

7. Devising favorable methods for coordinating services and activities of the public and specialized libraries in order to facilitate information flows.

According to the constitution, the main pillars of the library are the board of directors and the head of the library. The board of directors consists of the president of the Islamic Republic who is the chief executive of the library, the Minister of Culture and Higher Education, Minister of Education, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance and two book experts (one introduced by the Minister of Culture and Higher Education and the other one introduced by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Both should be approved by the board of directors and the head of the library).

The head of the library is recommended by the president and approved by the board of directors. His tenure is four years.

Library officials say that following the ratification of the library's constitution, the National Library of Iran has entered into a new era in its 55 year history.

From 1937 to 1992

The year 1937 marked the National Library of Iran's official birth at a small premises which was originally built for the library of the National Museum of Iran. At that time, the library needed a collection of books belonging to the former Public Education Library which was the library of the Dar ul Fanoon School.

More than 40 years of the library's life passed during the reign of the Pahlavis, but during those times, nobody really cared about the concept of a "national library," in its real sense. Thus the National Library was treated like other libraries. Meanwhile, a number of other national libraries were established throughout Iran. The national libraries in Tabriz (capital of the East Azarbaijan Province), Rasht (the capital of Gilan Province) and Shiraz (the capital of Fars Province) are some examples.

The information available about the history of the National Library of Iran at the public relations office of the library indicates that since the officials in charge of

the library realized the contradiction between the name of the library and its duties, they changed its name to the National Library of Tehran. They also prepared a new constitution for it.

After the advent of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the Revolutionary Council cancelled plans for the Pahlavi Library which was going to be established and transferred all its moveable and immovable properties to the National Library of Iran. Thus based on this decision, the National Library of Iran was no longer supervised by the then Ministry of Art and Culture (present Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance) and came under the authority of Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. Following that, the Center for Book Conservation Services, which is a research institute of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, merged into the National Library of Iran.

During Martyr' Muhammad Ali Rajai's prime-ministership, he issued an order according to which two former royal palaces were to be used for the library's premises. But after his death (since these palaces are located in the security zone of downtown Tehran) his order was not carried out. Instead, the office building of the former shah's wife, Farah, which is located near Niavaran Palace and part of building number eight of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education were given to the library.

Meanwhile the Majles ratified a bill according to which a copy of all books and publications printed in Iran must be sent to the library. Also, according to a circular issued by the then Prime Minister's office, all government organizations are obliged to send two copies of their publications to the library.

The Library's Physical Plant Situation

At the present time, the National Library of Iran operates from three separate buildings. This is a serious problem for the library which is admitted and emphasized by all the staffers and the head of the library.

These premises are:

The old building which is located in Si-e-Tir Street and is allocated for Persian, as well as Arabic books and publications. The Shahid Islami Building is located at the corner of Enqelab and Felestin streets and is the center for foreign books and publication. Books and publications on Iranian and Islamic studies, handwritten books, the bibliography center, as well as computer, book ordering and exchanging departments are all located at the Niavaran site.

As mentioned, the main problems of the National Library of Iran are lack of space and one central location. The head of the library notes "With respect to quantity of buildings, we have an unfavorable condition. In addition to our buildings being spread over three zones of the city, we suffer a lack of space too.

Our bookshelves are full. The library is developing and we cannot halt it.

In view of the fact that we get two copies of newly published books in Iran from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, every week we receive two pickup trucks loaded with books. We have no room to keep them."

At present the offices of the library managers are being used as book storage rooms. All the librarians complain about the lack of space. The public relations office of the library in a brochure published to focus on this subject says, "side from Martyr Rajai's efforts in giving two royal palaces to the library, the former Prime Minister Mir Hussein Musavi also decided to give the 33 storey Sepehr Tower to the National Library of Iran. Unfortunately, because the building was not resistant enough for heavy bookshelves, this idea was also cancelled.

Then he agreed to transfer the ownership of the former Qasr Prison to the library, in order to use its site for constructing a suitable building for the library. But following the necessary pedological survey, the site was announced unsuitable. Then all efforts for finding suitable land ended with the decision of President Rafsanjani and his cabinet allocating a plot of land opposite to the new Friday prayer site in Tehran. Since the Tehran Municipality has given due attention for expanding cultural services in Tehran, the project for construction of the National Library of Iran's premises one of the largest development projects of the five-year development plan is currently being implemented. This project will end in 1996 and the library will then have 40 million books.

'Green Corps' Environmental Group To Be Created

92WN0456Z Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
18 Mar 92 p 8

[News Report: "With the Participation of the Ministry of Education and Training and the Tehran Municipality, 'Green Corps' Will Be Formed to Protect the Environment"]

[Text] Tehran, 19 Esfand [9 Mar]: With the objective of expanding and preserving green spaces, the "Green Corps" has been formed with the cooperation of the ministry of education and training and the municipality of Tehran.

KEYHAN correspondent reports that Engineer Saeed Mohammadi, undersecretary for the Tehran parks and green spaces, pointed out in a press interview the importance of protecting the environment and the role of trees in human life and said, "The minimum green space required for every city dweller has been estimated to be a minimum of 15 meters; but in Tehran, there is less than 4 meters of green space for each inhabitant. If we are able to add 3,000 hectares of green space in a year, by

means of a five-year plan we will be able to have at least 14 meters of green space per inhabitant."

In regard to increasing green spaces in Tehran, he said, "In the current year, Tehran's green space has increased by 2,100 hectares, which is 900 hectares more than last year. At present, tree planting in parks and roadsides continues with the help of experts in renewing green spaces and parks in cities." He added, "In order to protect the existing green spaces, all gardens in Tehran of more than 10,000 square meters have been identified and smaller gardens also are in the process of identification and study."

In regard to the expansion of urban and wilderness parks he said, "With the help of advisers, plans for a number of parks in different parts of Tehran have been put into effect; these parks include 30-hectare Khajavi Kermani park; 2.5-hectare Gul Mohammadi park; 3-hectare Gulistan park; 6.5-hectare Wosouq ud dowlah park; 7-hectare Gulshan park; 52-hectare Pamchal park; 7-hectare Bustan park and 14-hectare 13 Aban park. In addition to these, plans for Warzesh and Shemshad parks, each measuring 30 hectares; 5-hectare Khizran park; 12-hectare Khaqani park and a comprehensive plan for a wilderness park in Surkehesar encompassing 700 hectares are all under study."

In regard to the water needed for Tehran's green spaces, Engineer Mohammadi said, "The parks organization uses the drip irrigation system that not only saves water but will also play an effective part in extending green spaces. In the current year, 400 hectares of green spaces around the Imam's holy mausoleum have been equipped with drip irrigation; a modern irrigation system will also be installed on the 220 hectares Bibi Shahr Banu area."

Referring to improving specialized knowledge among the organization's employees, he said, "We have employed 140 specialists in the Parks organization and 200 students in connection with green spaces; we have sent experts to foreign countries and utilized the services of professors and foreign experts; all our efforts have been aimed at using specialized methods in improving and expanding green spaces."

He referred to the role of the people and their participation in preserving green spaces and said, "We hope that by creating the 'Green Corps,' forming the society in support of green spaces and with the cooperation of the mass media, we will be able to benefit from the moral and material support of the people in protecting the environment and expanding green spaces."

Engineer Foruzesh Chairs Environmental Seminar
92WN0456A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
18 Mar 92 p 8

[News Report: "Minister of Construction Jihad: 'It Is Urgently Necessary To Preserve and Save the Country's

Natural Resources; Shifting Sands in the Country's Deserts Are Just as Dangerous as the Onslaught of Tens of Enemy Divisions"']

[Text] Tehran, IRNA, 21 Esfand [11 Mar]: Speaking in a seminar in Tehran on a survey of the problems of renewable natural resources, Engineer Foruzesh described the current state of the country's natural resources and asked that serious attention be paid to the problem of saving the country's natural resources and correcting the situation.

Engineer Foruzesh stated, "The importance of the country's natural resources should not be limited to a 'nature weekly'; use should be made of symbols and contributions; also, the deep ties that exist on this issue between the people and the authorities should be utilized throughout the year and proportionate to conditions."

The Minister of Construction Jihad pointed out that [educational] information conveyed to the people should be truthful and said that the issue of the natural resources of the country should be dealt with realistically.

Eng. Foruzesh described the activities of the organization for forests and meadows as a kind of jihad and asked for the greater participation of colleagues in preparing and organizing a strategy for dealing with the country's natural resources.

In regard to the importance of the preservation of the country's natural resources, he pointed out that such resources demanded as great a priority as a war and said, "Massive shifting sands, mobile desert dunes, and an ecology that is deteriorating in all aspects are certainly more important than the advance of tens of divisions of enemy soldiers."

Eng. Foruzesh pointed out the benefits of the participation of the people in solving the complex issues of natural resources. In regard to the preservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment, he asked the organization for forests and meadows to act as a regulatory body and under its supervision, to invite the people to participate in its activities.

He noted in this connection, "It is the policy of the government that activities that can be delegated, should be left to the people."

Expert on Environmental Protection in Caspian Sea

LD1504083592 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT
15 Apr 92

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., April 15, IRNA—An expert from the environment protection organization of Iran Tuesday called for establishment of a joint research center and cooperation council by littoral states of the Caspian Sea for preservation of marine life and environment.

Speaking at the inaugural session of a 3-day seminar on marine and meteorological sciences, here, Mohammad Seyyed Hoseyni said while oil explorations of the past years by Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan in their coastal waters have improved their economy, they have posed dangers on marine environment of the whole Caspian Sea region.

"Presently the daily production of 500,000 barrels of oil in eastern Baku, Azerbaijan Republic, has caused pollution endangering environment, upsetting the ecological balance and destroying marine life," Hoseyni said.

Baku's urban and industrial wastes continue to pour into the Caspian Sea, destroying marine life in a range of several kilometers, he added.

He quoted the chief of state committee of Azerbaijan for Caspian Sea, Mansurov, as saying that 500 million cubic meters of sewage pours into the Caspian from Baku annually, of which only 300 million cubic meters are filtered.

In the meantime, the Russian Republic pours extensive amounts of industrial wastes into the Volga River. The Turkmen Republic and Iran also contribute to polluting the sea.

Environmentalists are discussing air pollution in Iran, the release of radioactive rays resulting from Chernobyl accident as well as pollution in the Caspian Sea because of occasional oil leak and their impact on the marine life and the environment.

Officials Seize Heroin in West Azarbaijan

92AS0895H Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
31 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Urmia. With the efforts of the security officials of the West Azarbaijan region, in the past few days, 850 kg of heroin was discovered on an international ring, and six members of this ring were arrested.

According to the ideological and political office of the security region of West Azarbaijan, since the establishment of the security force on 12 Farvardin [1 Apr] last year, more than five tons of morphine, heroin, and other narcotics have been discovered in various areas of West Azarbaijan, and four narcotics production and distribution rings have been identified and their members arrested.

Over 300 Kg Opium Seized in Khorasan

92AS0895G Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
30 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Mashhad, IRNA. In the course of armed clashes with a narcotics smuggling gang in the area of Torbat-e Jam and Tayabad, 343 kg of opium was discovered.

According to a report by the correspondent of IRNA, in these clashes two dealers in death were arrested by the personnel of the Khorasan security region and two battle

grenades, and 158 bullets were confiscated. The identification and pursuit of other members of this smuggling gang continues.

Over 3 Tons of Opium Seized in Sistan

92WD0591W Tehran RESALAT in Persian
9 Apr 92 p 11

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—In an unprecedented seizure, about 3,300 kg of opium were seized from international smugglers by Sistan va Baluchestan police forces in two extensive and separate operations.

In the series of operations that led to the seizure of these substances, agents of the Sistan va Baluchestan police district fired heavily on a narcotics caravan in an attempt to destroy it in an area near Khash, killing or wounding a number of the armed insurgents and smugglers.

Likewise, in the process of destroying the narcotics-smuggling caravan in the eastern part of the country, which led to the destruction and burning of three vehicles carrying the smugglers' gasoline and narcotics, a quantity of arms and ammunition, including several RPG-7 rounds, was seized.

According to the reports that have been received, more than 40 vehicles belonging to the smugglers took part in the clash of several hours duration between the police forces and the armed insurgents and smugglers, and the remaining insurgents made use of the darkness of night and their remaining vehicles to escape.

It is worth mentioning that the police agents taking part in the operation received cash rewards and promotions.

'Notorious Insurgent' Captured, Executed

LD0105143792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] 'Abbas Naru'i, one of the most notorious nonnative insurgents of Kerman Province was arrested together with a number of other insurgents. The arrests were made by the region's Law Enforcement Forces following a number of daring surprise attacks.

During the operations, a number of people who accompanied him, including his eldest son Ahmad, were killed. 'Abbas Naru'i was wounded and taken behind the front lines and handed over to the Kerman Province judicial authorities for investigation.

Immediately after investigation into his crimes a death sentence was issued against him. The sentence was carried out in public in Sirjan on Thursday, third of Ordebehesht, [23 Apr].

It is worth mentioning that the said person led the biggest network of insurgency in the production and distribution of narcotics in Kerman Province. He had so

far martyred more than 70 law enforcement officers in various attacks. He had also caused numerous other damages.

'Abbas Naru'i was also one of the main elements in creation of insecurity and terror in the region and, particularly in Kerman.

Antinarcotics Squad Seizes Large Amounts of Opium

*LD1105172892 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT
11 May 92*

[Text] Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., May 11, IRNA—Six drug traffickers were killed and many others

injured in an attack on their hideouts by the anti-narcotics squad in Zabol, in this southeastern border province, last week.

Brigadier General Bahram Nowroozi in a press conference Monday said in the operation a major gang of smugglers was smashed and over 2,300 kgs of opium as well as six units of RPG-7 were seized.

Brigadier Nowroozi also told reporters that during the past two months seven major gangs of traffickers have been smashed and more than 6,400 kgs of narcotics as well as a large amount of ammunition have been seized from the smugglers.

Ilam Province Industrial Development Detailed*92AS0785A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Jan 92 p 13*

[News Report: "Report on the Industrial Situation of the Deprived Province of Ilam; Ilam, With All Its Riches, Is Poor"]

[Text] Because of its limited arable land, meadow lands, and water resources; ever increasing unemployment; and a weak economic structure, the industrialization of Ilam province is highest on the list of economic development programs and the achievement of this objective demands greater than ever all round cooperation among the authorities.

A report based on a survey of the industrial situation of Ilam points up the obstacles and difficulties that have to be overcome and removed before Ilam province can be industrialized.

We shall first of all discuss the social and economic conditions in Ilam, which have placed it in the forefront of candidates for industrialization.

Geographically, more than 60 percent of the province's area is hilly and less than half of it is covered by forests. Approximately 13 percent of the province is cultivated land (about 250,000 hectares), of which about 40 percent is under dry and irrigated farming.

Agricultural activity in Ilam follows traditional lines and relies on dry farming combined with traditional, rural, and tribal animal husbandry. The production for the most part fulfills the needs of the producers themselves.

Ilam is relatively rich in surface and underground water resources and rainfall, but due to inequitable geographical distribution, unregulated flow in various seasons, and the mountainous nature of the major portion of the province, large-scale projects are needed to store and regulate the annual water supply and to transport water to places of consumption.

Under present conditions, more than 60 percent of the province's running water (about 1.3 billion cubic meters) flows out of the area.

Also, considering that 50 percent of the province's population is younger than 15 years of age, from the point of view of age composition, Ilam province has a young population.

According to the general census figures for the years 1355 [21 March 76-20 March 77] and 1365 [21 March 86-20 March 87], 25.6 and 27.59 percent, of the inhabitants, respectively, were employed. The figures indicate a downward trend in employment over the last decade and a rise in unemployment to 20 percent.

With the exception of oil and gas, Ilam is poor in minerals and metals; but it has relatively rich sources of nonferrous minerals especially primary building materials.

As indicated by the existing statistics, the limited meadow and arable land and pasturage in the province fulfill 50 percent of the needs of the 2 million indigenous and migratory cattle of the province.

Because of its geographical conditions and location; limitations; the destructive policies of the devilish regime; economic conditions determining livelihood; economic weakness of the people; weak industrial knowledge; weakness in technical education and specialization and the lack of infrastructure potentials, Ilam Province has lacked suitable opportunities for industrial growth and development. The existence of two industrial units employing 103 individuals and a fixed capital of 351 million rials up to the year 1357 [21 Mar 78-20 Mar 79] proves the point.

After the success of the glorious Islamic revolution, government officials started to pay attention to deprived areas. But the outbreak of the imposed war was among the major obstacles in the socio-economic development of Ilam.

The years following 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90] should generally be regarded as the period of the economic revival of Ilam province; however, in spite of the difficulties of the last decade, from 1358 to 1368 [21 Mar 79 to 20 Mar 89], 74 industrial production units were started in the province with a fixed capital of 18 billion and 431 million rials and employing 1,767 individuals.

From 1368 to the month of Dey [22 Dec-20 Jan] of the current year, a total of 512 agreements in principle with a fixed capital of 101 billion rials and employing 12,950 individuals have been issued by the department of industries of Ilam.

From the beginning of the Islamic revolution until now, the issuance of 586 agreements in principle with a fixed capital of 120 billion rials and employing a total of 14,717 individuals can be regarded as a major step by the department of industries in bringing about economic revival and industrial development in Ilam province.

Out of the total number of agreements in principle issued in the current year, 132 industrial units with a fixed capital of 22 billion rials and offering employment to 3,650 individuals and a foreign exchange value of 42 million rials have been placed into production in the province in the fields of non-errous mineral products; textiles and clothing; cellular biology and chemicals; food and drugs; metals; electricity and electronics.

A comparison of the trend of agreements in principle to the permits for installation shows that units in production in the year 1368 were one third of the number of agreements in principle whereas in the year 1369 [21 Mar 90-20 Mar 91], units in production were one seventh of the agreements in principles issued. This downward trend is worthy of note from various points of view.

Even though the industrial development of Ilam has been given first priority in drawing up plans, the issuing

of agreements in principle will not achieve the objective. In order to bring about the right conditions for industrialization, cooperation among the various authorities is necessary.

Agreements in principle, which are issued by the department of industries, continue an upward trend; but placing a production unit into operation directly involves various departments such as the departments of agriculture, environment, commerce, electricity, labor and social affairs, water, and banking. The successful carrying out of an agreement in principle requires the cooperation of all the departments and organizations that play an important part in facilitating such needed items as water, space, electricity, building materials, and raw materials.

Other existing obstacles include restrictions such as those imposed by the environmental organization, customs, and centers for procurement and distribution.

Added to these is the problem of training since trained manpower is necessary for industrial development. To this end, the department of industries has, in accordance with the general policy of the ministry of industries, planned and instituted short-term courses in various fields to bring about a harmony between the experiences of craftsmen and modern technology.

During last year and the current year, 88 short-term training courses were arranged by the province's department of industries, which were successfully attended by 3,500 individuals; but the performance of one department alone cannot be regarded as a positive step towards industrial training in a province that is suffering from a lack of specialized training and technical knowledge.

What is required is an all-round effort by all related organizations to increase industrial and vocational training and offer more training courses in order to meet the needs.

Also, in order to promote industry in line with the population distribution policies and the utilization of natural and production resources, preliminary steps have been taken towards the establishment of six industrial centers in Ilam. The speedy completion of these centers is among the matters requiring attention.

Among the projects of the department of industries to promote industry in Ilam in the year 1371 [1992] is the implementation of 250 important projects for industry and employment that require more than 170 million dollars. If the foreign exchange needs of these projects can be fulfilled, 10,000 individuals will find employment and not only will the unemployment problem of the province be solved, but the province will also experience economic and industrial expansion and development.

In conclusion, the industrialization of Ilam province, which has been given first priority by the authorities, requires not only cooperation among all the related

organizations in the province and the removal of obstacles, but also attention to the following points:

- In view of the geographical conditions of the province and its location, the shortage of transport means is one of the serious obstacles to industry in the province; these shortages can be overcome by importing heavy machinery through the utilization of competitive foreign exchange currency and increasing the province's share of it.
- The weak economic condition of the people is due to the economic factors governing livelihood, pressures generated during the period of the sacred defense, and the inability of banks to offer facilities. Special programs are needed to provide sources of credit.
- Investment by banks and government economic organizations is needed in large-scale industrial projects in the province.
- Suitable conditions for investment were lacking in the past years. Foreign exchange at official rates should be granted to projects relating to the sacrifices of the refugees of the imposed war and the POWs
- Reduction in the cost of extending electric lines and arrangement for payment by installments.

East Azerbaijan TV Satellite Links Operational

*LD0105085292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT
21 Apr 92*

[Text] The town of Kalibar in East Azerbaijan Province is now covered by the second Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran network. According to a Central News Unit report, the activation of this 5-watt ground satellite station in Kalibar enables its inhabitants to watch the programs of the second Vision of the Islamic Republic network on channel 7.

The ground satellite station in Disaj village in Aliqolibeyk, a suburb of Hashtrud, has also been made operational. The activation of this station enables village inhabitants to watch the programs of the first Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on channel 6.

New Ilam Province TV Station Operational

*LD2004163192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT
20 Apr 92*

[Text] The country's most powerful television station in Ilam became operational today in the presence of Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Unidentified correspondent] This television station, which has been named Shahid Taslimi and which is situated at a height of 1,900 meters at Dinarkuh in Abdaran district, comprises a 40 kw UHS channel 27 transmitter with a two mw radiation power—to support the first network's transmitters—and four 25 kw VHS transmitters, each of 850 kw, which have been set up on

channels eight and 12, as the main and reserve channels respectively—to transmit the programs of the first and second network.

The commissioning of this powerful television transmitter, which cost 580 million rials and was paid for out of the development and reconstruction fund of the Voice and Vision, has brought areas within a 140 km radius in parts of southern Ilam province, and northern and northwestern Khuzestan province, within range of the first and second networks of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dareh Nargesi Bridge Repairs Completed

92AS0785A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
12 Feb 92 p 13

[News Report: Nargesi Bridge in the Province of Fars Is Reopened"]

[Text] Shiraz: One of the highest bridges constructed in the country was reopened last Monday in Fars in the presence of the minister of roads and transport.

According to the report of the central news unit, the bridge is located on the Dashte Arzan-Tange Abul Hayat axis on the Shiraz to Kazeroon highway. It was repaired within 23 months with an expenditure of 630 million rials obtained from the province of Fars development credits.

The bridge, known as Darreh Nargesi, is 55 meters high, 150 meters wide, and 9,140 meters long; it had been closed to traffic since the month of Mordad 1368 [23 Jul-22 Aug 1989], due to cracks. After repairs, reopening ceremonies were held and the bridge was reopened to traffic.

Deputy ministers of roads and transport, the governor of Fars and the director general of the roads and transport of Fars took part in the opening ceremonies.

Sardasht Reconstruction Activities Detailed

92AS0895C Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
30 Mar 92 p 5

[Telephone interview with Mostafavi, lieutenant governor of Sardasht, by IRNA; place and date not given]

[Text] In the last three months of last year (1370 [21 Mar 91-20 Mar 92]) in the border city of Sardasht, 390 million rials were spent on the reconstruction of war-torn residential units.

Mostafavi, the lieutenant governor of Sardasht, made this statement in a telephone interview with the correspondent of IRNA and added: This amount has been provided through the reconstruction funds for urban and rural areas.

He continued: Last year, the necessary preparations were made to create cultural and athletic areas for Sardasht,

and in following up, it was decided that the military barracks would be transferred outside the city, which in itself will eliminate the problem of the shortage of land to build cultural, educational, and athletic units in the city to a great extent.

The lieutenant governor of Sardasht continued: In order to eliminate the problem of water in the city, with the purchase and installation of a powerful generator, it will be possible to pump water continuously from the village of Kanirash to the water network, and with the installation of a 1,100-kilovolt electric power station, the problem of the electricity shortage in that city has been solved to some extent. According to the plans, in the near future, with the implementation of the energy transfer through the Baneh-Sardasht transmitting lines, the problem of the electrical shortage in that city will be eliminated. The city of Sardasht is located in the southern part of Western Azarbaijan, on the Kurdistan border.

Tabriz Petrochemical Complex Construction Begins

92AS0897A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
15 Apr 92 p 10

[Text] Tabriz—Central News Unit—19 Farvardin [8 Apr]—Construction operations have begun on Tabriz's first industrial petrochemical complex.

According to the report received, the work building ["olephin"], the main Tabriz petrochemical unit, has begun, with \$38 million in foreign exchange credits, and 8 billion rials allocated for rial expenditures, in cooperation between Iranian and South Korean experts.

In a press conference, the executive director of the Tabriz Petrochemical Complex discussed the importance of petrochemical products and their basic role in the production of plastic and rubber products. He said: When the first Tabriz petrochemical unit goes into operation, 136,000 tons of ethylene, 52,000 tons of propylene, and 28,000 tons of C-4 compounds will be produced annually, and these substances will be used to produce 16 other kinds of products.

The executive director of the Tabriz Petrochemical Complex discussed the timetable for the complete construction of this unit. He said: The nonindustrial buildings, such as the center for administrative training, the clinic, the fire department and the cafeteria will be ready for use after six months, but due to problems with foreign exchange, the industrial projects will be delayed a year and a half.

Bandar-e Mahshahr Families Boycott Buying Fruit

92AS0895B Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
31 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Bandar Mahshahr—JAHAN-E ESLAM correspondent. For some time now, a large number of Mahshahr families have boycotted buying fruit. The reason behind this boycott is the increasingly high price of fruit in Mahshahr.

Unfortunately, in Mahshahr, third-rate fruit is sold at first-rate prices, and no organization has supervision over the prices. When the people realized that the officials were not prepared to take steps with regard to the uncontrolled high prices of goods, including fruit, for the first time they took the initiative and began fighting high prices by boycotting fruit. After a while, the issue of boycotting spread through families. For this reason, the market for fruit is slow. Women have played a primary role in this issue. As soon as someone wants to buy fruit, a woman takes responsibility and very seriously tells the customer "Don't you not know there is a boycott on buying and using fruit?" This has resulted in no man daring to buy fruit. The slogan, "The punishment for the price hiker is not to buy", has become a fact for Mahshahr families. The fruit sellers of that city are sitting by, and some of them shout and scream at passersby to buy fruit. It is interesting that the young people and nine-year-old and 10-year-old children in this city encourage their families to continue resistance in this issue.

SAHA Passenger Flights to Bakhtaran Begin

92AS0887D Tehran RESALAT in Persian
8 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Bakhtaran—IRNA—For the purpose of providing services to the residents of the province of Bakhtaran, as of today Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (SAHA) passenger flights will begin flying to Bakhtaran.

IRNA's correspondent reports that the ceremonies inaugurating the SAHA flights to Bakhtaran were attended by Neku'i, governor-general, a group of local officials, and military commanders.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Army's passenger aircraft are to make three flights weekly both ways along the Tehran-Bakhtaran route, transporting passengers.

Henceforth the people of the province of Bakhtaran will be able to make use of SAHA's air services on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

Currently the Islamic Republic of Iran's aircraft are flying roundtrip from Tehran to Bakhtaran twice daily, and in view of the limited capacity of these aircraft, it is expected that the problems of air travel, which have always existed for the residents of the provinces of Bakhtaran and Ilam, will be solved.

Kerman Citizens' Views on Elections

92AS0895D Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM
in Persian 4 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] In Kerman, the people demand exact implementation of the instructions of the great leader in regards to the elections and emphasize the necessity for active participation in the elections.

IRNA from Kerman sends this report:

'Ali Mirzai-Janbaz: We expect the Majles deputies to take steps for the welfare of the public. He asked the people to pay attention to the statements of the leader and, by the active participation in the elections, to perform their religious duty.

Saberi, a member of the committee supervising the elections in Kerman Province, expressed hope that the people, with alertness and careful scrutiny, will elect suitable and serving individuals.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'fari, the representative of the religious guardian and the Friday imam of Kerman, considered participation in the elections a religious duty and asked the election candidates to carry out a sound campaign.

He asked the supporters of the candidates not to create tension and allow the people to elect the best in a sound and calm atmosphere.

Mar'ashi, the governor general of Kerman, expressed hope that given the natural course of the elections in the province of Kerman, the elections will be carried out in a sound atmosphere.

A member of the committee supervising the elections in Kerman [said]: Those who are compassionate and serve the people must be elected to the Majles, and in this connection the people can very well determine for whom to vote.

Earthquake in Genaveh Area; No Casualties

LD0505222992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT
5 May 92

[Text] An earthquake with an intensity of 5.2 degrees occurred around Bandar Genaveh [on the coast of the Sea of Oman]. The Tehran University Geophysics Center reported that the earthquake was registered at 1829 and 17 seconds. According to IRNA, the earthquake did not cause death and damage in Genaveh.

Earthquake Shakes Genaveh 5 May

LD0605085992 Tehran IRNA in English 0505 GMT
6 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the open-ended Richter scale jolted suburbs of the southern port city of Genaveh, Bushehr Province, Tuesday afternoon.

According to the Geophysics Center of Tehran University, the epicenter of the quake which occurred at 14:30 hours GMT was 850 kms south of Tehran.

There has been no damage or casualty.

Shiraz Suffers Minor Earthquakes, No Casualties, Damage

*LD1505112492 Tehran IRNA in English
1057 GMT 15 May 92*

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., May 14, IRNA—Shiraz and its southern suburbs were shaken by seven earthquakes early Thursday morning, the strongest measuring 4.1 degrees on the Richter Scale.

Shiraz Seismological Center recorded the two quakes and five aftershocks 60 kms. south of Shiraz at 1:19 hours local time Thursday (8:49 hours GMT Wednesday).

There has been no report of casualties or damage.

Satellite Ground Station Commissioned in Bidakhoid

*LD1804085692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
14 Apr 92*

[Text] The Bidakhoid satellite ground station, situated 80 km from Yazd, was commissioned today. With the start up of the station more than 4,000 inhabitants of the villages of Bidakhoid, Banatkuk, Heydarabad, and Valiabad-e Chelgazi will be able to receive the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.